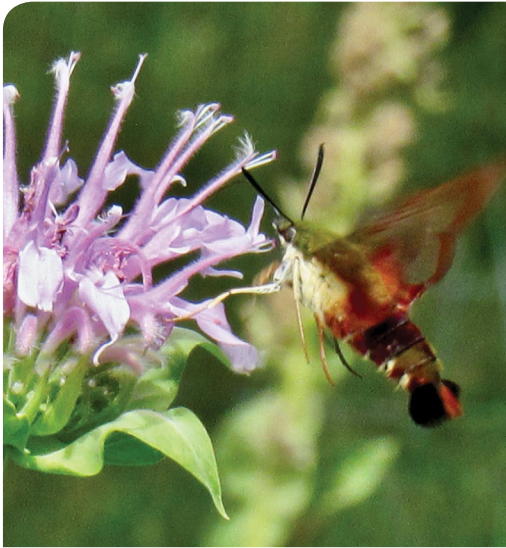




Summer 2026

Hello everyone!



Restoring Habitat One Yard at a Time



Summer is a busy time for gardeners, but also a time to relax and look at what's around you. I find that after three years at our new house things are just beginning to make sense. It's a good example of what can happen to anyone when they move. I didn't plan on having a "wild garden", but the flowers that have come up, had different plans. It's quite alright with me, as I'm not one for a neat-as-a-pin-totally-under-control yard anyway.

At our new house, I now have a small lawn that gets mowed, a not-too-big area that contains herbs and plants from our old house, and a wild patch... How could I say no to: boneset, vervain, primrose, beebalm, birdsfoot trefoil, milkweed, asters, tansy, goldenrod, Indian tobacco, fleabane, yarrow, Queen Anne's lace and various kinds of sedge grass? They are all self-planted. I'm a sucker for flowering plants, so I allowed them to take over an area I now call the "wild garden". This wild area is surrounded by native trees, and fits the property perfectly. The biggest surprise this past spring, was discovering some beautiful, fragile, poppies emerging, how wonderful!

However, I have taken a firm stand on several plants. Last year I saved a single bull/spear thistle. They are beautiful and I love them. The finches love them, and so do the pollinators. One good thing about thistle, is that deer will avoid them, so the plants next to thistle are fairly safe. BUT! This year I have removed at least 100 thistle plants in my wild garden. I know that later on this year and next year I will still be removing even more of these invasive plants.

There are two other plants in the "standing firm" category—smartweed and horseweed. From my observations, smartweed is pretty and can grow to a shrub-sized plant if allowed, but will then spread thousands of plants the following year. I can't find anything good to say about horseweed. It's just there, taking up space. I need to grab it before it goes to seed! All things considered, I'm lucky with what Mother Nature has given me.

Our property abuts woods on all sides, and it's amazing. We have a large hawk nesting within 300 feet of the house. She more or less, shares her area with an owl. The birds at the bird feeder seem to be safe and oblivious. I am gradually finding more butterflies and moths. With such an abundance of wildlife here, I'm much more aware of ecology, than just gardening. I guess you *can* teach an old dog new tricks—it's fascinating.

Enjoy the rest of your summer,
Marghi



PPNH Event Calendar

Free & Everyone is Welcome!

Join Us for Monthly Meetings...

Our monthly meetings are held at 5pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Kingston Community Library, 2 Library Lane.

August

Wednesday, August
26th at 5pm

PPNH Monthly Meeting

The Kingston Library
2 Library Lane, Kingston 03848

We encourage everyone to get involved — please join us!

September

Wednesday, September
23rd at 5pm

PPNH Monthly Meeting

The Kingston Library
2 Library Lane, Kingston 03848

We encourage everyone to get involved — please join us!

October

Saturday, October 3rd
from 10am – 2pm

Design Your Native Plant Garden Workshop

Exeter Town Hall
10 Front Street, Exeter 03833

This is a workshop, not just a talk!
Bring your plans, ideas, and
problems! Let the experts help you.
We look forward to seeing you there!

November

Saturday, November
14th, time tbd

9th Annual Seed Swap / Giveaway

Urban Forestry Center
45 Elwyn Road, Portsmouth 03801

Join us for our 9th Annual Seed
Swap and Giveaway! Lots of free
seeds and information to take away.
We look forward to swapping seeds
with you!

